3rd September 1928]

Government relief to sufferers from fire damages at Agiripalli, etc.

* 4 Q.—The Zamindar of Gollapalli: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state what relief the Government propose to give to the sufferers on account of fire damages at Agiripalli, Mantada, Ellore and Bezwada of Kistna and West Godavari districts?

A.—Government received reports regarding the fires at Ellore but not at the other places referred to in the question.

The Government sanctioned in all Rs. 25,000 for whatever relief measures the Collector of West Godavari thought necessary at Ellore. The Government also permitted the Collector to distribute Rs. 5,000 worth of palmyra trees from porambokes to the persons whose houses were burnt.

The Zamindar of Gollapalli:—"Will the Government be pleased to ascertain from the Divisional Officers and the District Collector the extent of the damage done by fire to Agiripalli and Mantada?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"Yes, Sir, if the hon. Member wants it."

Forest Panchayats

Fire-tracing of the exterior lines of reserved forests by Forest Panchayats.

*5 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in the agreement to be executed by the Forest Panchayats in South Kanara a new condition was inserted asking them to make clear and fire-trace the exterior lines of the reserves at their own cost;

(*b*) whether, as a result of this, most of the panchayats declined to renew their agreements for the year ending with June 1928;

(*c*) whether the Forest Department was spending money for this item of work prior to the establishment of the panchayat system;

(*d*) whether the panchayat has any source of income to get this work done at their own expense; and

(*e*) whether the Government propose to remove this new clause from the agreement?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*e*) The Government have not the information but have called for a report.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know whether questions like this cannot be kept pending till the Government obtain the information required for giving the answer?"

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"May I know, Sir, when the report was called for?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"I assume the hon. Member is referring to question No. 5. I am sorry I have not got the information. I shall have to look it up."